

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA

October 29, 1954

Dear Dr. Federberg,

I am sorry to have to tell you that I cannot comply with your request for cultures of poly. We have not yet made this strain available for general distribution and have sent it to other laboratories only in a few instances when we were assured that the work planned would not duplicate ours or that of Drs. Tissieres and Sowdridge. As it happens, Dr. Sowdridge began work on the problem of the behavior of heterothallics involving poly and not. poly strains when she was here in 1953 and has continued this work since returning to Britain. She has shown that it is a difficult problem on which to reach a conclusion and although my husband mentioned some of her results at Bellagio last year and she has, I believe, presented a paper on them in England, she plans to do more work before publishing the results in full. For this reason we do not feel free to send

the strain to some one else for the same problem. I feel certain that you will understand our position in this. Perhaps by the time you have finished your observations on Yeast the results with Neurospora will be available for comparison.

With regard to my trials with mixed cultures, I would most certainly not say that they gave the last word, or even the first, on heterokaryons since I did not show that heterokaryons were formed. We only put that in the papers because one of the questions most frequently asked us about polykaryons was, "What happens when you make a heterokaryon?" so we thought we should say that we didn't know.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Mitchell